

URGENT

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ALBANIAN INDUSTRY EXPANDING

During the postwar period, 46 major and 13 minor industrial enterprises were created in Albania. Furthermore, existing production facilities were expanded within the framework of the investment program. Subsequent production increases between 1945 and 1950 amounted to 732 percent for textiles, 177 percent for food products, 172 percent for leather, 359 percent for chemicals, 318 percent for tobacco, 307 percent for electric power, and 312 percent for lumber.

Among the industrial plants under construction are a group of textile mills, scheduled to start production with 21,000 spindles the latter part of 1951. The combined capacity of these factories is to be 20 million meters.

Projects now under construction include the Selite hydroelectric power plant near Tirana, a new cement plant, a ceramics factory, a paper mill, and several meat-, fish-, and fruit-processing plants.

The Albanian mining industry is being expanded. Various mines are receiving new equipment from the USSR. During the past 5 years, the mines increased their support of pure bitumen by 117 percent and of petroleum and coal by 400 and 357 percent, respectively.

Cultivation of sugar beets, cotton, sunflowers, and other agricultural products for industrial processing has been increased considerably.

INCREASE LEATHER PRODUCTION -- Berlin, Nachrichten fuer Aussenhandel, 7 Feb 51

Albania's hide and leather production for 1950 showed an increase of over 14 percent as compared with 1949, and was 3½ times that of 1938.

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BEGIN TEXTILE MACHINERY INSTALLATION -- Tirana, Bashkimi, 11 Apr 51

On 2 April 1951, the work of installing the textile machinery sent by the USSR began at the Stalin Textile Combine in Tirana. The equipment being installed is of modern design, much of it automatic.

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